

IMPORTANT NOTES for Tables of Medicare and Medicaid Hospital Discharge Rates:

These rates have not been adjusted for age, race, or sex and thus differences among counties may be due in part or whole to these demographic factors. Another factor that may contribute to variation among counties is differential reporting. Also, keep in mind that these data represent only people who are admitted as hospital inpatients, and differences should not necessarily be taken to represent differences among counties in morbidity in the general population, since access to hospital care and physician practices vary among geographic areas. Therefore, these rates should raise a flag for further investigation and not be taken as a final judgment.

Rates with less than twenty discharges in the numerator have been marked with an asterisk (*) to indicate that they may be inaccurate due to large standard errors.

Discharges to N. C. residents from South Carolina and Virginia hospitals are included. Counties with more than a few patients going to hospitals in Georgia or Tennessee have been adjusted for this outmigration, though our estimates of total outmigration may not be appropriate for each specific diagnosis group. Counties that may have inaccurate utilization rates due to a large number of patients leaving the state are Clay (50%) and Madison (14%).

Discharge records were grouped into the diagnosis categories according to the following ICD-9-CM principal diagnosis codes:

Total	All general hospital discharges except normal newborns
Acute Myocardial Infarction	410
Other Ischemic Heart Disease	411-414
Stroke	430-438
Cancer	140-208
Cancer of the Trachea, Bronchus, or Lung	162
Cancer of the Colon, Rectum, or Anus	153,154
Prostate Cancer	185 (Note: Rates use both male and female Medicare enrollees in the denominator.)
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary (Lung) Disease	490-496
Diabetes	250
Arthritis	710-719
Accidents, Poisoning, and Violence	800-999
Kidney Disease	580-593
Obstetric or Perinatal Complications (for Medicaid only)	Selected codes from 641-674 and 760-779 indicating conditions with adverse consequences for maternal and/or child health. (A list is available upon request.)
Cardiovascular Disease (for Medicaid only)	A.M.I., Other Ischemic H.D., and Stroke combined

The ICD-9-CM procedure codes for the types of surgery shown in these tables are 01-86 for total surgery, 60.2 for transurethral prostatectomy, 53.0 and 53.1 for inguinal hernia repair, 51.2 for gallbladder removal (cholecystectomy), and 01-05 for operations on the nervous system.